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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The general impression gained of the Leipzig Technical Fair was that exhibits were largely confined to known products of little particular interest. The number of visitors was normal, although the Germans (in particular the local, or Leipzig Germans) outnumbered the foreigners. On Sunday, visitors really interested in exhibits were few, as practically all had come just to see the show.
2. Automobiles and motorcycles for private use were exhibited, though they differed in no way from existing types in performance, equipment or dimensions.
3. There was nothing much to be seen in the way of heavy industrial machinery apart from a complete small-capacity distillation plant which was lined throughout with porcelain. None of the East German machines were particularly noteworthy but one gained the impression that the known types of machine can now be supplied in greater quantities. This applies to power plants, as well as to heating and refrigerating apparatus and to apparatus used in the chemical industry.
4. Few machines for use in the rubber and leather industries were shown, nor had the building industry anything to offer of special interest. No novelties of a striking nature were to be seen in the electrical or telecommunications field, apart from a mobile transformer station. Nothing noteworthy in the field of chemistry was shown; most firms contented themselves with depicting the modus operandi of their products.
5. In the case of synthetic materials [REDACTED] efforts to replace natural leather by a suitable substitute; in spite of this, however, these exhibits did not receive much attention.
6. In the instrument and optical fields the wide choice of industrial test apparatus (including materials testing appliances) was striking.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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7. A travelling crane made by Kranbau Eberswalde which was capable of lifting 15 tons with a large radius of action and which had a pivoting crane mast, giving a greater range of utilization, was of special interest. Cranes of 15, 25, and 50 tons lifting capacity running on rail tracks were also shown. Excavating machinery was of standard design.
8. The Czechs exhibited a light sports aircraft with a wing span of 10 m., a length of 7.35 m. and an average cruising speed of 112 km. p.h.; this aircraft, it is believed, is equipped with a Simon aero engine.
9. In textile machinery, Soviet types, or at any rate a close resemblance to machines of this kind built in the East, were recognizable.
10. The Soviets exhibited tractors, motor vehicles and agricultural machinery but in sizes suitable only for the U.S.S.R. (sic). They also exhibited paper and shot guns.
11. The Polish, Hungarian, Bulgarian [] products shown were only token exhibits of industry in these countries; nothing was for sale. 25X1
12. China, in exhibiting her goods and machinery, gave an idea of the rapid mechanization and development of that country. It was evident that China is being very extensively developed and is able to use to advantage her abundant natural products, which Germany can only purchase with difficulty.
13. In regard to the organization of the Fair, it was only possible to deal with individual foreign exhibitors by applying to a special bureau which was so sparing in its information that it was difficult to find out where the article in question came from, where it was made, by whom, or how it could be obtained. Orders could only be given through the Deutsche Handelszentrale (DEZ). In most cases, 1954 was given as the first year in which production could be started; in other cases the manufacturers had sufficient orders on hand. Prospectuses of Satellite firms were kept under glass and could only be obtained on personal application.

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